

PATENT  
ATTORNEY REF NO: P71-US#11.1  
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1-31-02**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9318 on January 25, 2002.

Patti Crowder  
Patti Crowder

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of: Eldridge et al.

Application No.: 09/189,761

Filing Date: November 11, 1998

For: SHARPENED, ORIENTED CONTACT  
TIP STRUCTURES

Examiner: K. Cuneo

Group Art Unit: 2841

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JAN 25 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). A copy of each listed publication, U.S. and foreign patent document, and pending U.S. application (including drawings and claims), is being submitted herewith, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. The Examiner is requested to initial and return the attached Form PTO/SB/08A in accordance with MPEP §609.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

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This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):

- (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d))  
-- OR --
- (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage  
-- OR --
- (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits  
-- OR --
- (4) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:

- a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; or
- a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

- A. a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; and
- B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

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**Fee Authorization.** Although Applicants believe that no fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment associated, with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (order no. P71-US).

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
N. Kenneth Burraston  
Reg. No. 39,923Date: January 25, 2002

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